(b) A quantity of 13,583 MT foodgrains were transferred from sound to damaged foodgrains due to damages occured during transit, floods (1993-94), open storage handling etc. in 1994-95 upto 31-10-1994. An estimated loss of about Rs. 5.09 crores is expected due to these damages.

(c) The Government have allowed the exporters to export 5 lakh MTs of wheat during 1994-95 from the open market and the Food Corporation of India has also been authorised to export wheat from the Central Pool subject to certain conditions. FCI has not exported any quantity of wheat so far. FCI has also been authorised to sell to State Trading Corporation (STC) initially 50,000 MTs of wheat from the Central Pool in November, 1994 at prevailing open sale price announced by the FCI, for the purpose of export. Open Sale of wheat of 50 lakh MTs will continue upto December, 1994 and rice of 15 lakh MTs will continue upto September, 1995. Apart from this the Government have decided to sell about 1.87 lakh MTs of wheat to Modern Food Industries through Ministry of Food Processing Industries for Manufacture of bread to sell at lower rate, (b) supply of foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC Hostels at PPDS rate, (c) supply of wheat & rice to small Food Processing Units, run by below poverty line families at concessional rate.

(d) to (f) Due to good production of foodgrains during two consecutive crop years of 1992-93 and 1993-94 (July-June), the procurement of wheat and paddy from the farmers under price support operation and levy rice from the millers/traders, under Levy Price Mechanism has been at high levels. Thus the surplus stocks are due to high level of procurement of foodgrains (wheat and rice) and declining trend of offtake in Public Distribution System on account of better local availability and gradually narrowed down gap between the Central Issue Prices and prevailing market prices in many areas of the country. It is compulsory for the Government to purchase wheat and paddy of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) offered by the farmers under Price Support Operation, while it is voluntary for them to sell the foodgrains to the Government. For the farmers they are free to sell their foodgrains at higher prices in the market. Stocks built-up by the Government under Price Support Operation depend on the FAQ quality of foodgrains so procurred by the Government under the present policy. The farmers are free to grow foodgrains of better varieties. They are also eligible to export their foodgrains along with other exporters as per the existing Exim Policy.

Scheme for Storage of Excess Foodgrains

2789. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme for the storage of excess foodgrains in the country and for revamping the Public Distribution System ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains i.e. wheat and rice will be supplied at a cheaper rate to the hostels of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) if so, whether Government have received any complaints in the past regarding the misuse of such supplies to these hostels who passed on these supplies to the open market for sale ; and

(e) if so, what precautions Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have planned through the Food Corporation of India the following course of action to meet the additional storage capacity requirements on account of the excess stocks of foodgrains.

(i) All the vacant storage capacity available with State and its agencies are being shared.

(ii) All the Warehousing Corporations (Central and State) have been approached for additional storages capacity requirement.

(iii) The Construction of on-going godowns is being expedited.

(iv) FCI's own CAP capacity is being enhanced to the extent land is available in the existing godown premises as well as on land in its possession where godown is still to be constructed.

(v) National Airport and Defence Authorities are being approached for hiring abandoned airstrips for creating large CAP complexes.

(vi) Encouraging Private parties to construct plinths for open storage as well as covered godowns; and thus, taking into consideration the measures taken by FCI for augmenting their storage capacity both as open storage and the additional covered storage, it is estimated that an additional capacity between 3 to 4 million tonnes may be made available to the Food Corporation of India by March, 1996.

(c) Yes, Sir. A quantity of 84,000 tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice taken together) has been allocated for the remaining part of 1994-95 with effect from December 1994 for issuing to SC/ST/OBC hostels throughout India, at

rates of Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat.

(d) and (e) The Scheme has been launched from November, 94 and no complaint as such have been received so far.

Report on Grain Deficit

2790. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the latest report of World Water Institute warning about massive grain deficit over the next 40 years in the Indian sub-continent if population continues to grow as projected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the largest increase in population is expected in India during the period;

(c) whether any advance planning has been done to meet the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

लेवी चीनी का आबंटन

2791. **श्री नरेश यादव**: क्या खाद्य मंत्री 26 अगस्त, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 4280 के दिये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार राज्य को लेवी चीनी का आबंटन उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या के आधार पर प्रति व्यक्ति 425 ग्राम की दर से किया जाता है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं तथा सरकार तद्नुसार लेवी चीनी आबंटित करने हेतु क्या कार्यवाही करेगी ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। बिहार को लेवी चीनी इस मानदण्ड पर आबंटित की जा रही है जिससे कि 1-10-1986 को प्रक्षिप्त जनसंख्या के लिए न्यूनतम प्रति व्यक्ति मासिक 425 ग्राम चीनी की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित हो सके।

Stock of Foodgrains

2792. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the position of food stocks was estimated to be excess of the end of July, 1994 and as on date;

(b) what is the quantity of foodgrains added to the stocks with the FCI since the beginning of 1994 ;

(c) what percentage of the foodgrains stocks was estimated to be excess of the norms fixed for the food security purposes ;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains distributed through PDS since January, 1994 and through special distribution system for Backward and Tribal areas to provide cheaper foodgrains ; and

(e) what are the circumstances leading to the surplus stocks of foodgrains posing various problems and the manner in which Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The stock position of foodgrains in Central Pool comprising the stocks hold by FCI and the stocks held by States/ State's agencies on behalf of FCI as on 1st January '94, 31st July '94 and 1st November '94 is as follows :

(In Million Tonnes)

As on	wheat	Rice	Coarse Grain	Total
1-1-94(p)	10.82	11.17	Neg.	21.99
31-7-94(p)	16.97	12.73	Neg.	29.70
1-11-94(p)	14.98	15.44	Neg.	30.42

(Neg.)=Negligible

(P)=Provisional

(b) A quantity of about 11.87 million tonnes of wheat and about 10.7 million tonnes of rice has been added to the FCI stocks since January '94 to November '94.

(c) As on 1-10-1994, the stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool (wheat and rice) against the minimum buffer norms prescribed and the percentage of excess